

direct U.S. aid to the children fathered by U.S. servicemembers. Locally, Joe and his law firm are routinely at the top of the list of donors to nonprofits helping the disabled, mentally ill, homeless and many others. It would be difficult to overstate the generosity of Joe towards his many communities, including \$5 million to create an endowment at California State Polytechnic University to promote the teaching of mathematics and science. Joe Cotchett has been "paying it forward" for decades, all with the knowledge that the meaningful legacies of any man's life are not memorialized in stone but rather demonstrated by the conscientious, continuous replacement of despair and anguish with hope and well-being.

Of course, over 50 years of practice it would be expected that an accomplished advocate would receive many honors and serve in many positions. Joe's honors and places of service are so numerous that they defy enumeration. Let me name just a few: Service on the board of the San Mateo County Heart Association, the San Mateo Boys and Girls Club, the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults, the Bay Meadows Foundation, Disability Rights Advocates, Public Citizen, and Earth Justice. He has lectured at the law schools of Harvard, Stanford, the University of Southern California, Georgetown, and U.C. Hastings College of the Law. Among his many honors have been those bestowed by the Anti-Defamation League, trial lawyer associations both state and national, and the State Bar of California. He has been published seven times and is a member of eight professional organizations, including the State Bar of California, and the bar associations of New York and the District of Columbia. He is also admitted to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Joe Cotchett received his B.S. in Engineering from California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo in June 1960, being named an outstanding graduate, and his J.D. from Hastings College of the Law at the University of California in June 1964. He received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Cal Poly and Honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Notre Dame de Namur University and the University of San Francisco. He is the author of "The Ethics Gap", "California Continuing Education of the Bar" and many others. His honors include being named Top 100 Lawyers in California by California Daily Journal in 2011 and the Lawdragon 500 Leading Lawyers in America list for 2011.

Do you see the theme here, my fellow members? Starving children. Children being poisoned by lead. Trusting consumers. The Earth in all her glory? Investors who legitimately trusted in free and fair markets? These are the clients of an honest, thoughtful advocate. An honest man is sometimes described as being made of the salt of the Earth. In fact, Joe is a bit salty. He can sometimes be crusty. But he is definitely of this Earth. Joe Cotchett deserves a happy 75th birthday and a warm round of applause for 50 years of service in the interest of justice. America is always strengthened by citizen advocates who see the public's interest and who defend it unstintingly. This nation should hope that there

are many more years in the life and service of Joseph W. Cotchett, an historic defender of American democracy.

#### HONORING DAN BILBREY

#### HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of Mr. Dan Bilbrey, a Vietnam War veteran who served in the Air Force and an outstanding leader in the community of Tracy, California.

Dan Bilbrey moved to Tracy, California in 1968 where he eventually served as the Mayor for 12 years, from 1994 to 2006 after a term on the City Council from 1990 to 1994.

At age 68, Mr. Bilbrey died in his home in the early morning on Wednesday, November 20, 2013, after suffering an illness for 7 months.

As mayor, Mr. Bilbrey played critical roles in many key community projects including: the Tracy Outlets, the West Valley Mall, construction of the Grand Theatre Center for the Arts, the Civic Center, renovation of the fire administration building at Ninth Street and Central Avenue, completion of the South County Water Surface Project, and establishment of a city parks system.

The city of Tracy honored Mr. Bilbrey's long career of service to the community on February 5th by dedicating the plaza at City Hall, 333 Civic Center Drive, in his name.

Dan was a man of strong faith and conviction. He was a loyal, patient man that his family and community have always been proud and blessed to have in their lives. He was of the highest integrity, a man of wisdom and courage, strength and honor, who respected, and was respected by all. He was always there to help, whether it was a boy scout, a teenager, or any other individual.

Mr. Bilbrey gave 100% into all projects; big or small, they were all of equal importance. He was a man of many hats: Mayor, Councilman, Foundation Director, reserve policeman, medic, husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and recently a great grandfather. He was born to Quitman and Lena Bilbrey and had one sibling, Ann Lamb; all have now passed. He has two children, John and Jennifer, three grandchildren, Savannah, Toli Jr. and Rylee, and one great granddaughter, Danni, who was named after him. His sister, Ann, married Spencer Lamb; they have three children, Terry, Sherry, and Elizabeth, who were very close to him. There are many great nieces and nephews, all of whom Dan's love and life touched.

When Dan had free time, he enjoyed spending it in his garden with his, "sweetie," Josie and his Boston Terrier. They made many trips to Oregon to visit grandchildren. They have also visited Europe, specifically: Portugal, Ireland, and England. Dan took after-Christmas trips to Hawaii with close friends to bring in the New Year. He took several cruises to the Panama Canal, Central America and Alaska.

Dan made friends everywhere he went and influenced many with his wisdom and kindness. He will be greatly missed by all. His contributions to our lives and community will always be remembered.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dan Bilbrey for his life and great contributions to his family, community and country.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,306,977,954,400.15. We've added \$6,680,100,905,487.07 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$6.6 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. GERALD L. BECK

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, January 9, 2014*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Gerald L. Beck for more than 38 years of service to educating Idahoans and on the occasion of his retirement from his current position as President of the College of Southern Idaho (CSI).

During his time at CSI, Dr. Beck has been a strong advocate for promoting academic excellence in Southeastern Idaho as well as supporting economic development in the local community. Through Dr. Beck's work prior to joining CSI—which included starting a small business and working two regional managerial positions—Dr. Beck gained the experience necessary to begin a long and successful career educating those who now contribute to the economic development of Idaho.

Perhaps the most meaningful impact Dr. Beck has made is his role as an educator and administrator. Dr. Beck started his career at CSI as a technical instructor and went on to hold positions as the Coordinator of the Trade and Industrial Division, the Dean of Continuing Education/Summer School, and the Executive Vice President/Chief Academic Officer. In his time at CSI Dr. Beck was able to integrate the higher education curriculum to support economic growth in southeast Idaho which created a mutually successful relationship between the college and local community.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank Dr. Beck for his service and commitment to higher education in Idaho. I wish him well in the next chapter of his life alongside his wife Barbara, children, and grandchildren.